

The header features a fiery orange and yellow background. On the left is the Missouri State Fire Marshal's seal, which includes the text 'DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY', 'MISSOURI STATE', 'SERVICE AND PROTECTION', and 'FIRE MARSHAL'. In the center, the text 'MISSOURI DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY' is written in large, bold, white letters, with 'NEWSLETTER' below it in large, bold, black letters. On the right is the Missouri Department of Public Safety seal, which includes the text 'MISSOURI', 'DEPARTMENT OF', 'SERVICE AND PROTECTION', and 'PUBLIC SAFETY'.

MISSOURI DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2006

From State Fire Marshal Randy Cole



Having an open line of communication is essential to being successful, whether it is on a personal or professional level. The Division of Fire Safety not only recognizes Missouri's fire service as our key customers but also the general public, and the various industries impacted by the division.

Communication is always an area that can be improved. This is why I am proud to bring back the Division of Fire Safety's newsletter. The newsletter will be available online with plans to post updates on a quarterly basis.

I encourage you to provide feedback and input to the Division on issues facing you as a representative of the fire service, general public or industry effected by one of the Division's many programs. I hope you find the articles informative and helpful.

Southern Stone County Fire Protection District Celebrates 20th Anniversary by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole

On Saturday, March 18, 2006, Chief Charlie Neubert and his department celebrated 20 years of providing fire service to the Southern Stone county community. I had the opportunity to attend this ceremony and want to express my appreciation to Chief Neubert for the invitation. Not only was the location impressive, the Showboat Branson Bell, the program was inspiring.

St. Charles Fire Chief Ernie Rhodes was guest speaker and his motivational style presentation was appreciated by all. It is obvious how much Chief Neubert supports his fire fighters, the fire fighter's auxiliary and the district's Board. Many awards were presented with Firefighter of the Year going to Capt. Dustin Rogers. Thanks again to Chief Neubert.



Chief Charlie Neubert

From State Fire Marshal Randy Cole

Oath of Office – Battlefield Firefighters



On Saturday, March 18th twenty-one firefighters including command staff were officially sworn in as firefighters and officers for the Battlefield Fire Protection District. I was honored when Chief Jerry Sparkman requested that I administer the oath. This ceremony was well received and provided those taking the oath with a renewed sense of pride

and ownership in the district and reestablished a longtime fire service tradition. I appreciate the hospitality shown to me by the firefighters and district board members. It was truly an honor and privilege to participate in this ceremony.

STATE LICENSE – FIREWORKS DISPLAYS

by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole

It is that time of the year when the Division's Investigation Unit starts gearing up for the fireworks season. Each year the number of permits and licenses issued continues to increase.

In 2004, laws requiring the issuance of pyrotechnic/display operator licenses passed and has created additional work for the Division. By most standards this is still considered a “new law”, and confusion seems to exist in relation to its requirements.

The law generally states that an individual who conducts fireworks displays shall be in possession of a valid *operator's license* issued by the Division. This applies to outdoor display fireworks classified as 1.3G (Class B) and indoor/proximate fireworks classified as 1.3S or 1.4S.

In addition to an operator's license, a *display permit* for either indoor or outdoor displays shall be issued by the Division or the local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ). If the local AHJ does not have an avenue or defers issuance of the permit to the Division, application for a display permit shall be submitted to the Division at least 10 days before the display is to occur. If the Division issues a display permit, an inspection of the site based on NFPA standards, is required.

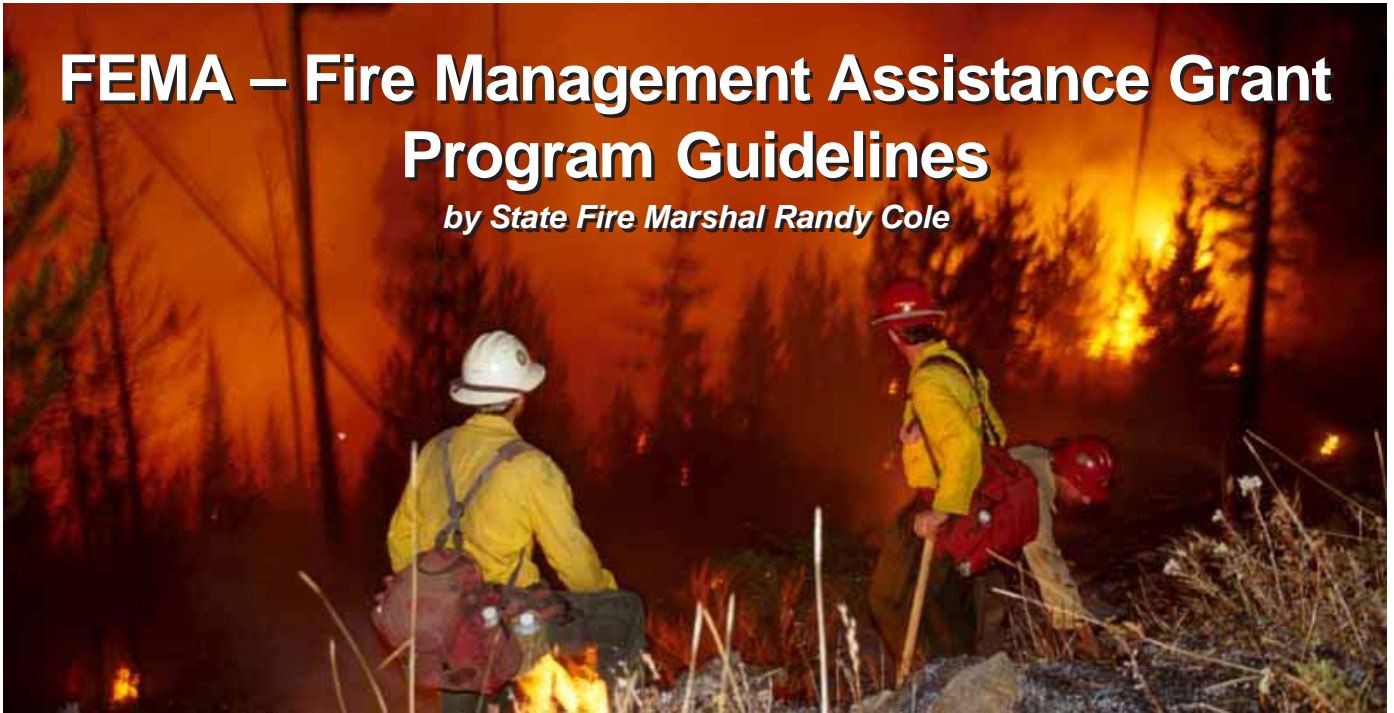
The Division will **NOT** issue a display permit if one has been denied by the local AHJ. If the AHJ issues the display permit, state law requires a copy of such permit be submitted to the Division.

Misuse of pyrotechnics can result in catastrophe. The Division asks that if you respond to or become aware of any fireworks-related accident to please notify us as soon as possible.



FEMA – Fire Management Assistance Grant Program Guidelines

by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole



As most of you are aware, many portions of the state are experiencing varying degrees of drought conditions. Unseasonably warm weather, low humidity levels, and gusty winds have and are still creating favorable conditions for rapidly spreading natural cover fires throughout the state.

Missouri usually does not see this degree of fire danger this early in the year, but the lack of precipitation this winter has dramatically affected the conditions we are experiencing and future forecasting models are not indicating weather patterns will soon be changing.

If you recall, as a result of the natural cover fires that occurred several years ago in the Lake of the Ozarks area, some Missouri fire departments were recipients of a FEMA supported Fire Management Assistance Grant. This grant provides a 75% federal cost-share reimbursement for actual eligible fire costs.

Those departments that were dispatched under the state mutual aid system recovered expenses relating to their responses.

Lessons were learned as a result of that experience and the Division wants to ensure you are aware of the grant process.

Of course we all hope to avoid any major natural cover fires, however, information is available regarding this grant that would provide cost recovery for suppression activities. To be eligible, specific guidelines **MUST** be followed.

Eligibility determinations are based upon the following criteria:

- 🔥 Threat to lives **and** at least 50 improved properties to include critical infrastructures
- 🔥 Availability of State & local firefighting resources (depletion/over extension)
- 🔥 High fire danger conditions; and
- 🔥 Potential for major economic impact

Before Missouri can be approved for the grant, eligible costs must meet or exceed the State's allotted fire cost threshold for a signal declared fire (\$330,117) or on an annual

continued on next page

Fire Management Assistance Grant Program Guidelines continued

cumulative basis for all declared and undeclared fires in a fire complex area (\$990,352). The fire cost threshold is subject to change on an annual basis.

Eligible costs that can be included to meet the fire cost threshold are:

- 🔥 Labor costs for overtime of permanent or reassigned state and local employees; regular time and overtime for temporary and contract employees hired to perform fire-related activities;
- 🔥 Operation and maintenance of equipment used in eligible firefighting activities;
- 🔥 Equipment and supplies, including tools, materials, expended, or lost;
- 🔥 Personal comfort and safety items for firefighter health and safety;
- 🔥 Travel and per diem;
- 🔥 Meals in lieu of per diem;
- 🔥 Evacuations and sheltering, police barricading and traffic control;
- 🔥 Search and rescue;
- 🔥 Mobilization and demobilization

For the State to request a fire management assistance declaration ***the fire must be burning out of control and threaten to become a major disaster.*** The local fire department should notify the Division of Fire Safety and the Division will in turn advise SEMA. The sooner you begin tracking expenditures, the better chance you have in obtaining full cost reimbursement.

This grant also addresses multiple fires over a period of time within the same geographical area. To be eligible for inclusion in the state cumulative cost basis, the fires must occur within the same fire complex area. Expenses for the fires must be tracked and documented for submission in the event the fire complex meets the state cumulative threshold. Once the threshold is met, then future fires within the same complex are potentially eligible for reimbursement.

For more information please visit the FEMA Website <http://www.fema.gov/rrr/overview/fedforms.shtm>.

Consumer Products Safety Commission Recalls

First Alert has issued a notice involving BRK/First Alert model 4120B or 4120SB smoke alarms due to battery problems. If you have tried to use a replacement Duracell battery and have had constant chirping or bulging/expansion of the battery then you are urged to contact Consumer Affairs @ 800-323-9005 for further instructions. The alarm will be replaced if you have experienced the problem. Alarms affected will have a date code between January 1998 and October 2000.

The following products have also been recalled for fire safety:

- 🔥 Valsi Corporation generators with plastic fuel tanks recalled for a fire hazard
- 🔥 Philips Consumer Electronics recalls plasma flat panel televisions
- 🔥 Coca-Cola ElectroPlasma Lamps sold at Rite Aid recalled for a burn hazard
- 🔥 American Suzuki Motor Corp. All-Terrain Vehicles recalled for a fire hazard
- 🔥 Big Lots Stores Inc. recalled tea light candles for a fire hazard
- 🔥 CPSC and SFC America recalled fire extinguishers for repair

For more recall information, check www.cpsc.gov





DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY UPDATES

by Personnel Analyst Donna Moore



On January 3, 2006, Mark Fechtig was hired as a Fire Investigator with the Division. He filled the vacancy left by Greg Carrell, who assumed the role of Assistant State Fire Marshal in August 2005. Previously Mark served as an agent for the Department of Conservation in McDonald County and with the Chillicothe Fire Department. He has relocated to Clinton County and assigned to cover the northwest area of the state.



Mark Fechtig



Chris Thompson

Chris Thompson joined the Division in February to fill the position vacated by Dawayne Lasiter, who retired after nearly 16 years as a Fire Investigator. Chris was employed by the West Plains Fire Department prior to joining the Division. He also served as a police officer with the West Plains Police Department. He has relocated to the Joplin area and is assigned to cover the southwest corner of the state.

Investigator James Trapani resigned from the Division following an eight year career. We wish Jim the best and appreciate his contribution to the Division.

Amber Maupin has assumed the duties of Office Support Assistant in the Investigation-Fireworks Unit. She will fill the position vacated by Emily Carroll, who resigned after nearly two years with the Division.

Congratulations to Elevator Safety Inspector Dan Daniels, who recently passed the Qualified Elevator Inspector (QEI) certification exam and to Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Inspector Kelly Weber who passed the National Boiler and Pressure Vessel Board Exam.

The Division currently has job openings for the positions of Elevator Safety/Amusement Ride Inspector and Fire Investigator. Check our website www.dfs.dps.mo.gov/dfsjobs for further information and applications.

Central Callaway Fire District Hosts Annual Banquet

by Asst. Fire Marshal Greg Carrell



On March 18th, the Central Callaway County Fire District held its annual banquet. Fire Chief Ken Hoover of the Little Dixie Fire Protection District spoke about the progress and expansion goals of the Firefighter's Memorial site in Kingdom City.

Jason Meyer was honored as Central Callaway's "Firefighter of the Year". State Representative Danielle Moore presented Firefighter Meyer with a proclamation honoring his achievement. I was pleased to be asked to assist in this presentation.

As part of a continuing tradition, Central Callaway purchased a brick to be inscribed with the Firefighter of the Year's name for placement in the Firefighter's Memorial walkway.

MIAC - WHAT IS IT AND HOW WILL IT HELP?

by Asst. Fire Marshal Greg Carrell



The Missouri Information Analysis Center (MIAC) is an intelligence fusion center and has initially been staffed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control unit.

The MIAC is located adjacent to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and will be used to coordinate intelligence information during EOC activations as well as other intelligence functions, such as gathering and disseminating information within the public safety community. Public Safety Director Mark James and State Fire Marshal Randy Cole have been very proactive in involving fire service in this venture.

Additionally, the goal is to have the MIAC capable of receiving intelligence information and then, after analysis, pushing that information out to the appropriate agencies.

The Division of Fire Safety will be using the MIAC as a tool to analyze multiple fires or complex cases to identify common ties. We believe this will be a valuable resource in our continued battle against arson and related crimes.

For more information about the MIAC, you can go to the website, www.miacx.org.

2004 Life Safety Achievement Award

by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole



Congratulations to those fire departments who were recipients of the 2004 Life Safety Achievement Award presented by the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RSFI).

It is also a pleasure to publicly congratulate the Lee's Summit Fire Department for having received this award for eleven consecutive years!

Twenty-nine Missouri departments were recognized for achieving a "zero" structural fire death in 2004. Many more departments can claim this success, but may not be aware of the LSA program. This program provides an avenue for a department to raise public awareness about their community's fire prevention and public education proactive efforts in reducing or eliminating fire related injuries and deaths.

For more information and to apply for the 2005 LSA you can visit RSFI's website, www.firesafehome.org and follow the link to "Life Safety Achievement Awards". The application deadline is **July 31, 2006**. You are encouraged you to take advantage of this opportunity. This is a simple process that takes very little time to complete.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UNIT HEADLINES

by Deputy Chief Kim Becker

Certification Testing offered at FFAM Convention in May

Certification testing for all levels will be offered on Friday, April 28, 2006, during the Fire Fighters Association of Missouri's Annual Convention in St. Joseph. Exams will be administered at 12:00 noon. Pre-registration is required and the deadline for application is April 14, 2006.

Applications and prerequisites for testing are available in the appropriate certification booklet located on the Division of Fire Safety's website at www.dfs.dps.mo.gov. Also, please visit our "Calendar of Events" for additional regional test dates and locations as well as our course schedule.



New Basic Fire Fighter Course – 2006 Version Now Available



A new, revised version of the 36-hour Missouri Division of Fire Safety Basic Fire Fighter program is now available. This course is designed to provide recruit fire fighters with some of the basic knowledge and skills necessary to help them function as members of a fire department.

Much of the information contained in this program comes from the Fire Fighter I and II curriculum to provide continuity in training materials. Although this course addresses the Fire Fighter Standard, it does not meet the requirements of the Division of Fire Safety for eligibility for fire fighter certification.

Several of the Fire Fighter I practical skills are included in this course. These skill sheets are based on the Job Performance Requirements of NFPA 1001-2002, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*. Should a student desire to pursue Fire Fighter Certification within one year, the completed sheets can be used to show mastery of the skills, however, the skills must be demonstrated to the Lead Instructor for an approved Fire Fighter I and II course.

It is not the intent of the Division of Fire Safety to imply that individuals completing this course are qualified to take part in an interior fire situation. This decision must be made solely by the authority having jurisdiction.

The course is available at no cost to Missouri fire departments. Contact Becky Trapani or Kim Becker for additional course information and registration details.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION UNIT HEADLINES

by Deputy Chief Kim Becker

Regional Testing – Update



Regional testing is going extremely well which we largely contribute to the guidance the instructors are giving their students. Exams are scheduled in the Mutual Aid Regions and test sites are rotated within each region.

From July 1, 2005 to January 31, 2006 we have administered 3,474 certification exams at 47 regional sites across the state. In addition, over 360 tests were administered to those who scheduled their exams at the Division of Fire Safety Office. Regional test locations and a schedule of courses are listed on our website at www.dfs.dps.mo.gov.

Division Courses Scheduled

- 🔥 April 21, 2006: Certified Evaluator Class - Mineral Area Community College
- 🔥 May 8-12, 2006: Fire Inspector Course - Branson Fire and Rescue
- 🔥 May 18, 2006: Certified Evaluator Class - 6:30 p.m., Lake St. Louis Fire District
- 🔥 May 11, 2006: Certified Evaluator Class - 7:00 p.m., Branson Fire and Rescue
- 🔥 May 22-26, 2006: Fire Investigator Course - North Kansas City Fire Department
- 🔥 August 21-25, 2006: Fire Investigator Course - Central County Fire and Rescue

Pre-registration is required for all Division classes. Visit our website at www.dfs.dps.mo.gov to download the list of course prerequisites and course applications.

ATTENTION EVALUATORS

The new Certified Evaluator Course was released in May 2005 and has been and will continue to be scheduled throughout the state as funding and staff availability permits. The new course is approximately two hours in length and addresses the Evaluator's role when conducting practical skills testing. *All Evaluators must take the new course by July, 2006.*

A schedule of classes is posted on the "[Calendar of Events](#)" on our website. For additional information contact Kim or Becky at 573-751-2930.

International Group Reviews Division's Accreditation

by Deputy Chief Kim Becker



The IFSAC Site Team reviewed the Division's fire service testing and certification programs from December 15-17, 2005. Left to right are IFSAC Manager Rich Hall, David Couvelha, Charlie Lott, and Robert Pearson.

Representatives of the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) reviewed the international accreditation of the Missouri Division of Fire Safety's fire service testing and certification programs from December 15-17, 2005 in Jefferson City.

The site team reviewing the Division's programs was comprised of IFSAC Manager Rich Hall; Robert Pearson of the Washington, D.C. Fire Department; Charlie Lott of the Kentucky State Fire Commission; and David Couvelha of the Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

The Division of Fire Safety is internationally accredited for the certification levels of Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Fire Fighter I and II, Fire Service Instructor I, Fire Officer I, Fire Inspector I, and Fire Investigator. In addition to having these levels reviewed for reaccreditation, the team reviewed the levels of Fire Service Instructor II and Fire Officer II for initial accreditation.

The team will make their recommendation for accreditation to the IFSAC Certification Assembly Board of Governors at their April, 2006 annual meeting



to be voted on by the membership. "It is obvious that a lot of hard work went into this program and the Missouri Division of Fire Safety staff should be commended on the hard work they have completed," IFSAC Manager Hall said. In the site team report, the team made no recommendations for changes or improvement. This is a rare and impressive achievement for a certifying entity.

During the site team's visit, they reviewed all the Division's certification procedures, policies, written test banks, and manipulative skill testing. They also observed a fire investigator skills exam and a regional written testing session with over 80 students from across the state.

IFSAC currently provides accreditation to entities that certify the competency of and issue certificates to individuals who pass examinations based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fire service professional qualifications and other standards approved by the Assembly. There are 58 Certificate Assembly member entities throughout the world having 452 accredited levels. IFSAC also accredits fire science or related academic programs at colleges and universities.

State Fire Marshal Randy Cole explains, "The accreditation status provides Missouri fire fighters with certification portability. Being internationally accredited ensures the first responder the certification they receive in Missouri will be recognized in other states and countries. At the same time the review process ensures the Division of Fire Safety is operating a fair, credible, and valid training and certification program."

Another significant benefit of the accreditation and certification process is the assurance of consistent training and testing of firefighters and emergency responders who protect the citizens of Missouri.

The Division of Fire Safety's certification process must be reevaluated by an IFSAC appointed team every five years in order to keep the international accreditation status. Since initial accreditation in 1996, the Missouri Division of Fire Safety has issued over 42,000 certifications to over 19,000 fire fighters and emergency first responders. There are an estimated 25,000 firefighters in the State of Missouri, 80% of whom volunteer their service.

IFSAC Manager Rich Hall explains the accreditation process and benefits to certification candidates at a regional test at the Division Headquarters on Dec. 17, 2005 during the reaccreditation site visit.





by NFIRS Program Manager Jim McKenney

Missouri is an active member in the National Fire Information Council (NFIC) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). NFIC plays an important role in reducing injuries, fatalities and economic losses from emergencies, by analyzing the data fire departments submit through the NFIRS program.

State Fire Marshal Randy Cole and the NFIRS Program Manager Jim McKenney, would like to encourage all fire departments to participate in the NFIRS program by reporting not only fires, but all incidents using the NFIRS program. As our communities continue to grow and change, the information you submit goes a long way in helping Missouri address fire and emergency safety issues.

For those fire departments who are using the software provide by USFA it is necessary to upgrade to Version 5.4.1. The other

platforms of NFIRS are no longer workable. The latest version of NFIRS is available for download from the NFIRS website at <http://nfirs.fema.gov/users> or a CD may be obtained by contacting *Jim.McKenney@dfs.dps.mo.gov*. When requesting a CD please include your name, title, fire department name, location and mailing address.

We receive numerous phone calls from fire departments using the NFIRS data entry program or bulk import tool advising that their account password has expired. The actual problem is that FEMA monitors the activity of those fire departments and if you have not accessed your account for 60 days FEMA will change your account to inactive. The error code you receive is "password has expired." To avoid this problem all departments are encouraged to make a point of logging into NFIRS or the Bulk Import Tool monthly, even if you do not log an incident.

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National Fire Incident Reporting System continued

If you become locked out of the system for five invalid logins or “password has expired” please contact Jim McKenney at Jim.McKenney@dfs.dps.mo.gov. In the subject line please include ‘NFIRS’, along with the name of your department and the county. Once your account has been reactivated you must login by midnight that day. If you fail to meet that dead line you must repeat the above steps again.

The USFA conducts yearly audits on the data submitted by the States. Missouri currently has over 5,000 invalid incidents in the data base which is a 2.1% error rating. Those fire departments using the USFA free software can conduct audits of their own data. To find your invalid incidents open the data entry tool – click on incident “open”. When the search screen appears – locate “validity” – click on the drop down arrow and highlight “invalid” then go to bottom left side of the screen and click on “search”. Your invalid incident(s) will be displayed. Highlight one incident and at the bottom right side of the screen click on “open”. This will retrieve the incident and take you back to the data entry tool. Once you are back in the data entry tool go to the top tool bar and click on “incident” and locate “validation errors”. This will identify your critical errors.

Clearing invalid incidents will help USFA and Missouri to receive accurate data for those agencies researching this information like NFPA, Consumer Product Safety Commission, IAFF, and many more.

Again, the Division would like to thank those fire departments who actively participate in the Missouri fire reporting system.

NFIRS Data - Fire Quiz

by Jim McKenney

Information for this quiz is based on incidents occurring in Missouri during calendar year 2005.

1. What was the leading cause of firefighter injuries in Missouri?
 - a. Extraction with power tool
 - b. Overhaul
 - c. Forcible entry
 - d. Handling charged hose lines
2. How many fires were started by candles?
 - a. 90
 - b. 21
 - c. 120
 - d. 100
3. What is the leading cause for residential structure fires?
 - a. smoking
 - b. cooking
 - c. heating
 - d. open flame, ember, torch
4. How many fires were started by fireworks?
 - a. 100
 - b. 187
 - c. 200
 - d. 89
5. What is the number two cause for residential structure fires?
 - a. heating
 - b. children playing
 - c. smoking
 - d. exposure

These statistics were compiled from data provided by 543 fire departments who have recorded a total of 231,780 incidents during 2005.

Please e-mail requests for statistics to Jim McKenney at Jim.McKenney@dfs.dps.mo.gov.

Answers: 1. d, 2. c, 3. b, 4. b, 5. a

RECOVERING BOILER SYSTEMS AFTER A FLOOD

Floods, whether caused by nature, structural or mechanical failures, can result in deaths, injuries, and severe property damage. The following information is provided to assist in the recovery of boiler systems affected by flooding to help mitigate further risks to public safety and property damage.



- ✧ Safety of the personnel performing inspections and repairs is the highest priority. Because flood waters contain many hazardous chemicals and bacteria, personnel safety procedures should be developed and enforced.
- ✧ All utilities in the boiler room should be turned off until inspection and necessary repairs of the individual systems allow reactivation.
- ✧ A careful visual inspection of the entire boiler system should be made, both internally and externally, with notations of obvious problems and any special equipment or personnel needed to facilitate repairs.
- ✧ Keep in mind that some equipment may only be repaired by the original manufacturer or its licensed agents in order to maintain warranties and/or certification.
- ✧ The boiler setting or foundation should be examined closely to determine if it has been weakened or undermined. Any movement of the boiler or building will have an adverse effect on piping and other equipment connected to both the boiler and building structure.
- ✧ Waterlogged insulation will hasten external corrosion of boilers and pipes. If removal is deemed necessary, remember that asbestos is still present in many boiler rooms and requires handling by specially licensed personnel. If the insulation is left in place and the boiler is fired before thoroughly drying, steam can be generated within the insulation layers, creating the potential for explosive damage to the external lagging.
- ✧ Refractory and fire brick should be checked for deterioration or loosening.
- ✧ Feedwater and condensate return systems should be thoroughly cleaned of any mud, silt, or debris. After the boiler is put back in operation, the water quality should be checked often for contamination of any kind.

RECOVERING BOILER SYSTEMS AFTER A FLOOD continued

- ✱ Pressure relief devices should be checked for corrosion or any damage that would cause binding and failure to operate. Only qualified personnel should perform disassembly or repair of a pressure relief device. Some jurisdictions require this work to be performed by a company holding the National Board “VR” symbol stamp. The outlet and discharge line of the pressure-relieving device should be inspected for blockage.
- ✱ All drains and blow-off lines should be inspected to ensure there is no blockage by debris.
- ✱ Electric/electronic controls should be evaluated for replacement or repair as needed. Flame safeguard controls, ignition transformers, and safety shutoff valves on the fuel system that have the potential for causing furnace explosions should be replaced. Other fuel system components should be drained and cleaned or replaced as necessary. All work performed on the fuel system and safety devices must comply with jurisdictional requirements.
- ✱ All electric motors and wiring should be inspected closely to determine if repair or replacement is necessary. All electrical work must comply with jurisdictional requirements.
- ✱ Check to make sure air inlets are clear and chimneys or stacks are open.

These items are not intended to be all-inclusive, as boiler systems and equipment vary in design and operation. However, this list could be used as an outline in developing individual inspection and repair guidelines to fit many systems affected by flooding.

INVESTIGATION UNIT STATISTICS

by Law Enforcement Manager Jim Wilson

During the period of July 1, 2005 to March 20, 2006, the Division's Investigation Unit conducted a total of 877 investigations. These incidents resulted in 45 civilian fatalities and one firefighter fatality.

Of these 877 incidents:

- 🔥 453 incidents (52%) were incendiary fires or criminal investigations.
- 🔥 424 incidents (48%) were accidental fires or other causes.
- 🔥 15 deaths (33%) were attributed to criminal incidents.
- 🔥 31 deaths, (67%) which includes the firefighter death, were attributed to accidental or other causes.

One of the long-term goals of the Division is to track accidental fire causes in an effort to identify factors involved in these fires. This information can then be used as part of a public education process to reduce the number of fire related deaths in Missouri.

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR JAMES REACHES OUT TO MISSOURI'S FIRE SERVICE

by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole



The Division of Fire Safety is one of nine divisions under the Department of Public Safety. For the first time in history, the Director of Public Safety has extended an invitation to Missouri's fire service to participate in an "advisory" group. DPS Director Mark James has expressed his desire to personally hear from fire service representatives on issues and concerns facing Missouri's fire service.

The first meeting was held on February 22, 2006 and was well received both by Director James and those in attendance. Meeting minutes may be reviewed on the Division's website. I want to thank those that have volunteered to be involved in this group. A second meeting has been scheduled for April 18th.

Director James is to be applauded for his efforts and responsiveness to Missouri's fire service.

Fire Inspection Unit – Authority

by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole



The Division's Fire Safety Inspection Unit conducts approximately 12,000 inspections annually for various state agencies who license care providers. The fire safety rules and regulations adopted by the state agencies and used by Division inspectors are based upon NFPA Life Safety 101. In addition, any newly constructed care facility to be licensed by the respective state agency must submit construction plans to the Division for review by the Division.

A question frequently presented to the Division from care providers and fire service agencies relates to locally adopted codes or ordinances. An approved fire safety inspection from the Division of Fire Safety **does not** waive compliance with a locally adopted code or ordinance. The facility must comply with local requirements which may be more stringent than fire safety rules and regulations enforced by the Division.

Questions concerning the Fire Inspection Unit please contact the Division at 573-751-2930.



2006 AMUSEMENT RIDE SEASON

by State Fire Marshal Randy Cole

The Division is gearing up for the start of another amusement ride season. Since 1997 the Division has been tasked with oversight and enforcement of the Amusement Ride Safety Act.

All equipment meeting the definition of an amusement ride is subject to an annual safety inspection based upon manufacturer's guidelines and nationally recognized standards. Based upon an approved inspection by a "state approved" inspector, a state operating permit shall be issued. The 2006 operating permit is red in color and will indicate the expiration date.

Legislative changes in 2004 authorize the Division to conduct "spot" safety inspections of amusement rides operating in the state. This inspection not only ensures the ride remains in a safe operating condition it also provides an avenue to ensure inspections conducted by state approved inspectors have been performed in conformance with the standards or guidelines.

Discovery of an inadequate safety inspection by an inspector may result in the inspector's approval status being revoked by the Division. Any safety deficiency identified during a spot inspection that would create a life safety hazard will cause the ride to be immediately shut down. Before the ride may be placed back into service a complete safety inspection shall be required to be conducted by a Division inspector at the owner's expense.

Frequent questions about amusement ride permits and inspectors:

➤ Does the issuance of a state operating permit preempt local jurisdictional requirements?
No

➤ Is a state operating permit required for a portable climbing wall over ten feet tall?
Yes, any climbing wall over ten feet shall be inspected and permitted.

➤ What is the cost of a state operating permit?
\$30.00

➤ How do I locate a "state approved" amusement ride inspector?
A list of approved inspectors are listed on the Division's website, www.dfs.dps.mo.gov

➤ Can a Division of Fire Safety inspector perform the annual safety inspection?
No, current law does not authorize the Division to perform the annual inspection.

➤ Who investigates an amusement ride accident?
*Current law authorizes the Division to investigate any ride accident that results in bodily injury to one individual that requires admission to a medical care facility, **or** bodily injury to three or more persons requiring off site medical treatment, or a fatality.*

Comments or questions concerning amusement rides operating in the State may be directed to the Division at 573-751-2930.